

## Message Text

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14  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

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TAGS: EAGR PL  
SUBJ: AGRICULTURE IN TRANSITION

REF: (A) WARSAW 6354. (B) WARSAW 6511

1. SUMMARY. GOP ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS SINCE THE SEPT 9  
PLENUM ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY SHOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS LITTLE  
HOPE OF ACHIEVING SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SUPPLY OF KEY  
FOOD ITEMS SUCH AS MEAT. MOREOVER, THE AUTHORITIES HAVE YET TO  
REVEAL ANY CLEAR PLANS FOR LONGER RANGE SOLUTIONS TO THEIR AGRI-  
CULTURAL PROBLEMS. THEY SEEM TO BE PREPARING CITIZENS FOR A  
PROTRACTED PERIOD OF TIGHTENED BELTS, WHILE RELYING ON IMPRECISE  
LONG-TERM PROGRAMS TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS. PREMIER JARO-  
SZEWICZ'S SPEECH AT THE HARVEST FESTIVAL SEPT 12, FOR EXAMPLE,  
CONTAINED CLEAR WARNINGS OF THE HARD TIMES AHEAD AND UNCLEAR  
PRESCRIPTIONS FOR HOW THINGS EVENTUALLY WILL GET BETTER. END  
SUMMARY.

2. AMPLIFYING ON THE THEMES EXPRESSED BY FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK  
AT MIELEC AND THE FOURTH PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE DURING THE  
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LAST TWO WEEKS (REFTELS), JAROSZEWICZ TOLD THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

CROWD AT PLOCK AND A NATIONAL TV AUDIENCE THAT THE POOR CROPS OF THE LAST THREE YEARS WOULD MAKE THE AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY SITUATION OVER THE NEXT YEAR DIFFICULT AT BEST. HE SAID THAT 1976 WAS THE THIRD BAD HARVEST IN A ROW. HE BLAMED THIS ON A LATE SPRING AND LACK OF RAIN, BUT LATER STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE UNDER-UTILIZATION OF SOME PRIVATE LANDS. HE EMPHASIZED THE GRAIN SUPPLY SITUATION. THE PREMIER SAID THAT GRAIN IMPORTS WOULD REACH 7 MILLION TONS NEXT YEAR AND STATED FLATLY THAT "WE CANNOT AFFORD OVERLY HIGH IMPORTS OF GRAIN."

3. JAROSZEWICZ ADVISED THAT "THE BETTER WE UNDERSTAND AND RECOGNIZE THE EXISTING SITUATION, THE EASIER WE WILL STRUGGLE THROUGH CURRENT DIFFICULTIES." HE WENT FURTHER TO SAY THAT OVERCOMING AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS WOULD BE "NECESSARY TO THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN NATIONAL INCOME AND SALARIES." JAROSZEWICZ THUS RECOGNIZED THE DIRE SHORTAGES OF MEAT AND THE CONCOMITANT DISSATISFACTION IN POLAND AT THIS TIME. HIS MESSAGE WAS CLEAR: CONTINUED BELT-TIGHTENING WILL BE NECESSARY.

4. JAROSZEWICZ, LIKE GIEREK BEFORE HIM, GAVE NO CLEAR INDICATIONS OF EXACTLY HOW THE GOP PLANNED TO REMEDY THIS DIFFICULT AGRICULTURAL SITUATION. HE DID SAY THAT "PROGRESSIVE ADJUSTMENT IN THE LEVEL AND STRUCTURE OF RETAIL PRICES" OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE IS "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN THE SOLUTION TO THE AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS." JAROSZEWICZ ALSO EXHORTED FARMERS TO UTILIZE PASTURE AND FODDER TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPORT GRAIN AND "AT THE SAME TIME ASSURE THE COMPLETE AND TIMELY ATTAINMENT OF PLANNED PURCHASES OF GRAIN IN ALL WOJEWODSHIPS."

5. JAROSZEWICZ EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION AT PRODUCTIVITY ON PRIVATE FARMS, SAYING THAT STATE FARMS HAD IN RECENT YEARS EXPERIENCED RATES OF GROWTH IN PRODUCTIVITY TWICE AS LARGE AS THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. HE CRITICIZED THE UNDER-UTILIZATION OF LAND BY SOME FARMERS AND STATED THAT PRODUCTIVITY ON SOME PRIVATE FARMS WAS LESS THAN HALF OF THAT ON NEIGHBORING LAND WITH THE SAME OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE PREMIER ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ALL WELL-RUN FARMS WHICH COULD SHOW HIGH RESULTS IN PRODUCTIVITY AND MEET CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS ON SUPPLIES OF PRODUCE. COOPERATION AMONG PRIVATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND STATE AND COOPERATIVE FARMS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED, HE SAID. AGRICULTURAL LAND, HE CONCLUDED, SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS ONLY OF THOSE WHO INCREASE ITS PRODUCTIVITY AND OUTPUT.

6. COMMENT: THE POLES MAY HAVE HAD A MORE COHERENT PROGRAM FOR DEALING WITH THEIR AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS BEFORE THE JUNE 24-25 EVENTS, BUT THE CONSTRAINTS THEY HAVE HAD TO OPERATE UNDER SINCE THEN HAVE LIMITED THEM TO CAUTIOUS, PIECEMEAL EFFORTS. ONE OF

THE FEW POLICIES WHICH THE GOP CAN PURSUE VIGOROUSLY WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WOULD BE TO GIVE EFFICIENT PRIVATE FARMERS GREATER LEEWAY TO EXPAND THEIR ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION. AS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE IN COMMUNIST POLAND, DIFFICULT POLITICAL SITUATIONS MAY PERMIT IMPORTANT ADVANCES IN ECONOMIC LIBERALISM. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NEED TO MANAGE THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRODUCTS IN SHORT SUPPLY COULD, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, LEAD THE GOP TOWARD GREATER REGULATORY CONTROLS. THE ASSIGNING OF QUOTAS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GRAIN IN EACH OF THE WOJEWODSHIPS MAY BE ONE EXAMPLE OF ATTEMPTS TO OVERCOME MARKET DISEQUILIBRIUM BY REGULATION INSTEAD OF MARKET INCENTIVE. END COMMENT.

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